



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yong-ju CHI

Appln. No.: 09/176,940

Confirmation No.: 2476

Filed: October 22, 1998

For: HEAD DRUM ASSEMBLY FOR TAPE RECORDER

Group Art Unit: 2652

Examiner: Robert S. Tupper

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2001, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith.

REMARKS

The present application is a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) of the prior parent application. Claim 1 is the sole claim presently pending in the application.

The Examiner has returned initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms submitted together with the Information Disclosure Statements on March 30, 2001 and on May 8, 2001, respectively.

The Examiner has now rejected the sole pending claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JPA 2-9002. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

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In the rejection under §102(b), the Examiner maintains that JPA 2-9002 shows a head drum assembly having a stationary drum (12, 20), a rotary drum (10), a flexible printed circuit (20B) having connectors (20C and 20D) that connect the transformer to the main PCB (30) through an unlabeled hole in the main base (40).

However, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

In this case, JPA 2-9002 does not clearly anticipate claim 1 of the present application for at least the following two reasons. First, Applicant’s claim 1 specifically recites, *inter alia*:

a flexible printed circuit disposed inside the stationary drum and having one end electrically connected to rotary transformers respectively mounted to the rotary drum and the stationary drum, for transmitting an information signal read by said magnetic head to a main printed circuit board (PCB) which is located outside the stationary drum... (emphasis added).

While the Examiner references the elements 20B of JPA 2-9002 as a flexible printed circuit, these elements are in fact connector pins and not a flexible printed circuit.

Second, Applicant’s claim 1 further recites, *inter alia*:

wherein said first connector has a first end portion which is electrically connected to the opposite end of the flexible printed circuit and which is inserted into and fittingly coupled to said through-hole... (emphasis added).

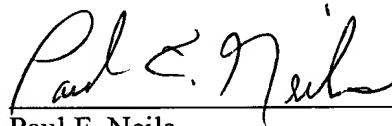
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In contrast, JPA 2-9002 shows the connector 20D inserted through a through-hole formed in the chassis 40 but with some clearance between the two elements (see FIG. 1).

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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